We claim:

1. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent comprising:

a) a reservoir comprising a releasably stored dosage of the pharmaceutically active agent; and

b) a substantially continuous, translucent inorganic barrier layer adjacent to at least a portion of the reservoir.

2. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 1, further comprising a backing film substrate.

3. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 2, wherein the backing film substrate is translucent.

4. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 2, wherein the inorganic barrier layer directly adjoins the backing film substrate.

5. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 1, further comprising a layer comprising a polymer adjoining the inorganic barrier layer.

6. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 5, wherein the polymer is crosslinked.

7. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 5, comprising a plurality of inorganic barrier layers.

8. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 5, comprising a plurality of layers comprising a polymer.

9. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 5, wherein the polymer is a polyacrylate or polymethacrylate.

10. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic barrier layer directly adjoins the reservoir.

11. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic barrier layer is less than about 200 nm thick.

12. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic barrier layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of indium tinoxide, aluminum oxide, silicon oxide, aluminum-silicon-oxide, aluminum-silicon-nitride, and aluminum-silicon-oxy-nitride.

13. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of inorganic barrier layers.

14. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 1, wherein the reservoir comprises a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

15. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent comprising:

a) a reservoir comprising a releasably stored dosage of the pharmaceutically active agent;

b) a flexible, translucent polymeric film backing; and

c) a translucent barrier adjacent to the polymeric film backing,

wherein the device is characterized in that the moisture vapor transmission rate across the backing and barrier is less than about 2 $g/m^2/day$ and the oxygen transmission rate across the backing and barrier is less than about 10 $cm^3/m^2/day$.

16. A transdermal drug delivery device for delivering a pharmaceutically active agent according to claim 15, wherein the barrier comprises an inorganic barrier layer.

17. A method of drug delivery to a mammal comprising:

a) providing a reservoir comprising a pharmaceutically active agent;

b) providing a substantially continuous, translucent inorganic barrier layer adjacent to at least a portion of one surface of the reservoir:

c) placing the surface of the reservoir opposed to the surface adjacent to the inorganic barrier layer in a delivering relationship to the skin surface of the mammal; and

d) allowing the reservoir to remain in a delivering relationship to the skin for a period of time sufficient to provide a therapeutic effect.

18. A method of drug delivery according to claim 17, wherein the reservoir directly adjoins the skin.

19. A method of drug delivery to a mammal comprising:

a) providing a transdermal drug delivery device according to claim 15;

b) placing the device in a delivering relationship to the skin surface of the mammal; and

c) allowing the device to remain in a delivering relationship to the skin for a period of time sufficient to provide a therapeutic effect.

20. A method of drug delivery according to claim 19, wherein the reservoir directly adjoins the skin.